

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A bind processing method in which sheets of loose leaf paper are bound with a binder, the sheets of loose leaf paper having a plurality of punch holes formed along one side of the sheets of paper and the binder comprising a continuous rectangular bar-like spine portion and a plurality of hinged first and second division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along both long sides of the continuous rectangular bar-like spine portion, the spine portion being interposed between the first and second division ring portions, the method comprising:

symmetrically driving pairs of first and second pushers so as to close the first and second division ring portions of the binder; ~~and~~

engaging forward end portions of the first division ring portions with forward end portions of the second division ring portions within the punch holes formed on the sheets of loose leaf paper; and

separating one binder from a stack of a plurality binders, wherein the one binder which is separated is used as said binder for binding the sheets of papers.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The bind processing method according to claim 1, wherein each of the pairs first and second pushers comprises two sets of the pairs of first and second pushers,

the two sets of pairs first and second pushers are arranged in a longitudinal direction, one set of the pair of first and second pushers pinch back face sides of the first and second division ring portions of the binder so as to rotate the first and second division ring portions in a closing direction, and

another set of the pair of first and second pushers pinch forward end sides of the division ring portion of the binder so as to engage the forward end portions of the opposing first and second division ring portions with each other.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The bind processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

supporting the sheets of paper to be bound in a sheet table, and
advancing and retreating the sheet table toward the binder when the pairs of first and second pushers conduct binding, so that generation of abrasion between the division ring portion and inner wall faces of the punch holes can be suppressed when the division ring portions of the binder proceeds into the punch hole on the sheets of paper.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented/Withdrawn): A bind processing device for use with a binder comprising a spine portion and division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along

both sides of the spine portion, the spine portion being interposed between the division ring portions, the device comprising:

a first pusher and a second pusher;

a drive mechanism that symmetrically drives the first and second pushers; and

a drive motor that drives the drive mechanism,

wherein the first pusher and the second pusher are driven in a closing direction so as to close the division ring portions of the binder so that pairs of forward end portions of the division ring portions are engaged with each other within punch holes on the sheets of loose leaf paper.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented/Withdrawn): The bind processing device according to claim 4, wherein the first and second pushers comprise:

primary first pushers and primary second pushers, which are arranged in a longitudinal direction, and

secondary first pushers and secondary second pushers,

the primary first pushers and the primary second pushers pinch back face sides of first and second division ring portions of the division ring portions of the binder and rotate the first and second division ring portions, and

the secondary first pusher and the secondary second pusher pinch forward end portions of the first and second division ring portions of the division ring portions of the binder so that the forward end portions of the opposing first and second division ring portions engage each other.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented/Withdrawn): The bind processing device according to claim 4, further comprising:

a sheet table for supporting sheets of paper to be bound; and

a table moving mechanism for advancing and retreating the sheet table to the binder, wherein

when binding is conducted by the first and second pushers, the sheet table is advanced toward the binder so as to suppress occurrence of abrasion caused between the division ring portions and the inner wall faces of the punch holes when the division ring portions of the binder proceeds into the punch holes.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented/Withdrawn): The bind processing device according to claim 4, further comprising:

a pin provided on the sheet table, wherein

the pin is inserted into one of the punch holes of each of the sheets of paper on the sheet table so as to correct a positional deviation of the punch hole of each of the sheets of paper.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented/Withdrawn): The bind processing device according to claim 4, the drive mechanism comprising:

a feed screw arranged in the longitudinal direction having a first half portion in which a screw is formed and a second half portion in which a screw inverse to the screw of the first half portion is formed; and

a first slider and a second slider, the first slider comprising a female screw and second slider comprising a female screw, the female screws of the first slider and the second slider can be engaged with the first half portion and the second half portion of the feed screw.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The bind processing device according to claim 4, the drive mechanism comprising:

- a pair of levers connected with each other by a pin; and
- a lever opening and closing drive mechanism.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented, Withdrawn): A bind processing device for binding sheets of loose leaf paper with a binder, a plurality of punch holes being formed along one side of the sheets of loose leaf paper, and division ring portions being arranged at regular intervals along both long sides of a spine portion of the binder, the bind processing device comprising:

- a sheet table that supports the sheets of loose leaf paper; and
- a pin provided on the sheet table that enters into one of the punch holes of the sheets of paper so as to correct a positional deviation of the punch hole.

Claims 12 – 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented/Withdrawn): A finisher device for using a binder, the binder comprising a spine portion and division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along both long sides of the spine portion, the spine portion being interposed between the division ring portions, the finisher device comprising:

- a first pusher and a second pusher;

- a drive mechanism for symmetrically driving the first and second pushers; and

- a drive motor the drives the drive mechanism,

wherein the first and second pushers are driven in the closing direction so as to close the division ring portions of the binder, and a pair of forward end portions of the division ring portions are engaged with each other within punch holes on the sheets of loose leaf paper.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented/Withdrawn): A bookbinding device for using a binder, the binder comprising a spine portion and division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along both sides of the spine portion, the spine portion being interposed between the division ring portions, bookbinding device comprising:

- a first pusher and a second pusher;

- a drive mechanism for symmetrically driving the first pusher and the second pusher; and

- a drive motor that drives the drive mechanism,

wherein the first and second pushers are driven in the closing direction so as to close the division ring portions of the binder, and a pair of forward end portions of the division ring portions are engaged with each other within punch holes on the sheets of loose leaf paper.

Claims 16 – 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented/Withdrawn): A finisher device for binding sheets of loose leaf paper with a binder, each sheet of loose leaf paper comprising, along one side, a plurality of punch holes, the binder comprising a spine portion and division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along both long sides of the spine portion, the finisher device comprising:

a sheet table for supporting the sheets of loose leaf paper; and

a pin provided on the sheet table, the pin enters into one of the punch holes of each of the sheets of paper so as to correct a positional deviation of the punch hole of each sheet of paper.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented/Withdrawn): A bookbinding device for binding sheets of loose leaf paper with a binder, each sheet of loose leaf paper comprising, along one side, a plurality of punch holes, the binder comprising a spine portion and division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along both long sides of the spine portion, the bookbinding device comprising:

a sheet table for supporting the sheets of loose leaf paper; and

a pin provided on the sheet table, the pin enters into one of the punch holes of each of the sheets of paper so as to correct a positional deviation of the punch hole of each sheet of paper.

Claim 20 (Cancelled).